

## **SPECIFICATION**

In the Specification, replace the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 5 with the following paragraph:

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5        A method includes providing an initial IC device design, which design has a desired set of electrical characteristics. A layout representation corresponding to the initial device design is generated. A simulation tool is used to determine whether the layout representation corresponds to an IC device design having the desired electrical characteristics. In addition, the variation between structures within IC device designed due to process variations is evaluated using the  
10      simulation tool. This variation can be used to determine whether the design is optimized.